

# Busted!

A sampler of recent charges of employer labor law violations at the local office of the National Labor Relations Board (NLRB).

## Ashland co-op goes gonzo over union drive

The National Labor Relations Board has interviewed at least 15 **Ashland Food Co-op** employees in an investigation of charges filed by **United Food and Commercial Workers (UFCW) Local 555**. The 150-employee consumer co-op was accused Oct. 11 of violating at least six separate sections of the federal labor law in the course of an aggressive anti-union campaign waged by its general manager with advice from a Seattle anti-union consultant. The company is accused of creating and recognizing an unlawful company-run "union," prohibiting pro-union activity while permitting anti-union activity, removing and defacing union materials, threatening criminal action against a worker who linked to a pro-union web site, surveilling workers' pro-union postings on social media web sites, encouraging workers to repudiate union authorization cards they'd signed, and holding coercive one-on-one meetings at which workers were interrogated about the union and encouraged to sign an anti-union petition. Enthusiasm for unionizing spread quickly at first, says Local 555 Organizing Director Anne Dietz, above all because workers wanted the "just cause" rights that most union members enjoy — rules against arbitrary discipline by management. But the anti-campaign began soon after. A floor manager started taking workers out to a recycling shed and asked them to sign an anti-union petition. Meetings and letters followed. Ashland Food Co-op soon became a hostile workplace for open union supporters, Dietz says, with anti-union workers allowed by management to harass pro-union workers.

## Ambulance contractor fires union supporters

At **MetroWest Ambulance**, the anti-union lawlessness has gone from bad to worse. In April and May we reported that managers disciplined workers for wearing pro-union buttons and threatened to call police when an off-the-clock worker invited co-workers to sign union cards. Since then, the company has been terminating union supporters. According to charges filed by attorney Sarah Drescher on behalf of **Teamsters Local 223**, MetroWest discharged employees Jason Gordan and David Arellano Aug. 31 in retaliation for their legally protected union activity, and followed that up Oct. 10 with the layoff of 13 employees, many of whom were union supporters. Within weeks, the company hired a dozen new employees, without recalling any of those laid off. MetroWest has a contract to provide ambulance service for Washington County. A campaign to join the Teamsters has been under

## AFL-CIO, NOLC relocate to old Machinists hall

The Oregon AFL-CIO has relocated its Portland office after completing a purchase of the Machinists Union building located off Powell Blvd. at 3645 SE 32nd Ave.

Joining the AFL-CIO at the new location will be the Northwest Oregon Labor Council. NOLC moved out of its offices at 1125 SE Madison St. at the end of October.

Also housed in the facility are the International Alliance of Theatrical Stage Employees, and Working America, a community affiliate of the AFL-CIO.

Starting this month, NOLC Executive Board meetings will be held at the new location.

The Northwest Oregon Labor Retirees Council and the Alliance for Retired Americans Oregon Chapter (ARA) will continue meeting at 1125 SE Madison, though they will relocate to the conference room of Labor's Community Service Agency, Room 103.

The Oregon AFL-CIO will maintain its Salem office at 2110 State St.



Apprentice bricklayer Peter Gargiulo, left, rebuilds a wall outside the Oregon AFL-CIO's new Portland office, instructed by journeyman pointer/caulker/cleaner Mark Roddy. The office, formerly the Machinists District Lodge 24 hall, is getting a makeover with labor donated by union bricklayers, painters, floor coverers, tapers, plumbers, and others.

## TriMet Lift workers authorize strike

After nearly two years trying to negotiate a contract, employees of a company that provides transportation for the elderly and disabled have voted to authorize a strike. First Tran-

sit, a subsidiary of United Kingdom based First Group, has a contract with TriMet to provide TriMet Lift service in Multnomah County. The 250 employees whose labor First Transit sells

to TriMet are members of Amalgamated Transit Union Local 757.

Bargaining is at an impasse. The union has appealed to TriMet to intervene, without success so far.

A mediator is scheduled to meet with the two sides Nov. 21.

## INDEPENDENT RETIREMENT LIVING

**Kirkland Union Manors**  
3530 SE 84th Ave.  
Portland 97266  
503-777-8101

**Westmoreland's Union Manor**  
6404 SE 23rd Ave.  
Portland 97202  
503-233-5671

## Manors Make the Difference

- Studio and One-Bedroom Apartments
- Affordable Rent includes Utilities (EXCEPT PHONE AND CABLE)
- Planned Events, Clubs, and Activities
- Ideal Locations offer easy access to Bus Lines, Shopping, and Entertainment
- No Costly Buy-In or Application Fees
- Federal Rent Subsidies Available (MUST QUALIFY)



**WESTMORELAND'S UNION MANOR**  
*Opened in October of 1966*



LABOR LEADERS IN THE PORTLAND BUILDING TRADE MOVEMENT ORGANIZED THE UNION LABOR RETIREMENT ASSOCIATION IN 1962, WITH THE SOLE PURPOSE OF PROVIDING HOUSING FOR THE ELDERLY.

"We believe that everyone earns the right to retire, free from pressures of earlier years."



**Kirkland Union Plaza**  
1414 Kauffman Ave.  
Vancouver 98660  
360-694-4314

**Marshall Union Manor**  
2020 NW Northrup  
Portland 97209  
503-225-0677

WWW.THEUNIONMANORS.ORG  
TDD 503-771-0912

## Marco Consulting Group

Serving Taft-Hartley and Public Benefit Plan Markets:

- Full-service Investment Consulting Services
- Fiduciary Services
- Proxy Voting Services

For more info please contact Jason Zenk at 253-376-3391



Headquarters Office  
550 W. Washington Blvd.  
Suite 900  
Chicago, IL 60661

P: 312-575-9000  
F: 312-575-9840

WWW.MARCOCONSULTING.COM

East Coast Office  
25 Braintree Hill Office Park  
Suite 103  
Braintree, MA 02184

P: 617-298-0967  
F: 781-228-5871